

Message Text

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14

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 PC-01 AID-05 SCA-01 PPT-01 OPR-02

SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-05

IO-10 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /073 W

----- 086829

R 311645Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMCONSUL DOUALA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGDOUGOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7977

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC, DM

SUBJ: OVERLAND TRAVEL IN BENIN

1. THE RECENT HOAX INVOLVING THE ALLEGED DETENTION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS NEAR DJOUGOU HAS RAISED QUESTIONS FROM SOME NEIGHBORING POSTS ABOUT THE ADVISABILITY OF SURFACE TRAVEL THROUGH THE INTERIOR OF THE PBR. IN THIS INSTANCE THE REPORT TURNED OUT TO BE FRAUDULENT. NEVERTHELESS THERE IS SOME REASON FOR CONCERN ABOUT THE WELFARE OF OVERLAND TRAVELERS IN THE PBR. THE INCREASED ZEAL OF THE POLICE HERE, THE UNDISCIPLINED VIGILANTE PATROLS OF LOCAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES AND THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY'S BARRAGE OF PROPAGANDA URGING THAT "IMPERIALISTS" BE "LIQUIDATED ON THE SPOT", ALL SERVE TO INCREASE THE POTENTIAL FOR INCIDENTS AND

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ARRESTS OF INNOCENT "EUROPEAN" TRAVELERS.

2. FOR THE TIME BEING EMBASSY SEES NO REASON TO RESTRICT TRAVEL TO AMERICANS TO BENIN. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF CURRENT REVOLUTIONARY EXCESSES WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU SUGGEST TO OVERLAND TRAVELERS OVER INTERIOR ROADS, THAT THEY PROVIDE YOU THEIR ITINERARY (FOR CABLE TRANSMISSION TO US) AND CHECK IN HERE WHEN THEY ARRIVE. THESE PRECAUTIONS NOT NECESSARY FOR PERSONS PROCEEDING VIA WELL TRAVELED COASTAL HIGHWAY.

ENGLE

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Message Attributes

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